District Dialogues Announced For Hampton Roads And Northern Virginia

VTCA-VDOT District Dialogues give attendees a unique opportunity to meet with VDOT leaders, locality representatives, and other transportation industry professionals to discuss specific projects and opportunities in the Districts. Come show your support of the program and our industry by registering for and sponsoring the Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads District Dialogues!

Northern Virginia
Thursday, November 7
Hyatt Regency Fairfax
12777 Fair Lakes Circle
Fairfax, VA 22033

Hampton Roads
Wednesday, December 4
Hampton Roads Convention Center
1610 Coliseum Drive
Hampton, VA 23666

Two More ESCCC Classes

Two ESCCC (Erosion and Sediment Control Contractor Certification) classes remain on the 2019 schedule. In accordance with VDOT Road and Bridge Specifications, a land-disturbing activity that occurs within the VDOT right-of-way must be supervised by a certified ESC Contractor who is always required to be on-site during that land-disturbing activity.

The two remaining classes are set for November 6 at the Roanoke Higher Education Center and December 5 at the VTCA Office in Richmond. Visit www.vtca.org to register online or download the registration form.

VTCA Aggregate Safety Seminars

The 2019 VTCA Aggregates Safety Seminars are scheduled for December 3 in Fredericksburg (Fredericksburg Expo Center) and December 4 in Roanoke (Holiday Inn Valley View).

This year’s Seminars will feature a wide range of important safety topics. Along with presentations from industry and health care professionals, MSHA and the Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) will provide regulatory updates. Additional areas of focus will include DMM safety resources, collision avoidance, the impact of the legalization of marijuana and respirable crystalline silica concerns. These topics are of critical importance to mining operators as well as contractors that perform work on MSHA and/or DMME regulated sites.

We are also expecting a strong MSHA presence at the Seminars, including MSHA personnel from the National, District and Field offices. This will be a good opportunity to meet MSHA representatives from our newly assigned District Office.

The information you receive will be beneficial in protecting your personnel, avoiding penalty assessments and ensuring the continued and safe operation of your facilities. Registration is now open. Visit https://www.vtca.org/events/.
Dedicated To Your Success
Winter Meeting Program Designed For You

The 2020 VTCA Winter Meeting will be held February 6 – 9 at the incomparable Fairmont Scottsdale Princess in Scottsdale, Arizona. The program we have created for you will enhance your knowledge across a wide spectrum of topics.

- Dr. Bob Holsworth, one of Virginia’s leading political analysts, will return to the VTCA podium to share insights and predictions for what lies ahead, post-election, for Virginia and for the transportation construction industry.

- Bart Thrasher, PE, VDOT Chief Engineer, will be with us to talk about Virginia’s historic and complex transportation program. Thrasher was selected as the agency’s Chief Engineer in June 2019. With more than 25 years of transportation experience, Thrasher provides strategic oversight to key programs across the Commonwealth’s 124,000 lane-mile network.

- Environmental compliance is one of our industry’s most complex challenges. “The Devil is in the Details” will be presented by VTCA counsel Pat Genzler of Vandeventer Black, Steve Kuntz, PE, Vice President with Dewberry, and Chuck Smith, Senior Vice President with Shirley Contracting Company.

- “What Does Your Personal Risk Index Tell You and Your Employer?” Audience members will take an electronic “survey” to see what their personal risk index is and discuss applications for its use in the workplace. Bethany Murphy, Scott Insurance

- VTCA’s Executive Vice President Jeff Southard will bring you up-to-speed on the work of the Virginia General Assembly. He will also give an update on the many issues and initiatives that VTCA is pursuing on behalf of its members.

Celebrating 28 consecutive years of AAA/CAA Five Diamond Service, the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess is proud to be the longest running AAA Five Diamond resort in Arizona! Don’t miss this affordable opportunity to enjoy the ultimate desert oasis. Look for all the details around mid-November.

Chuck Barger Appointed To VTCA Board Of Directors

Following the resignation of Mark Norden, E. Dillon & Company, from the VTCA Board of Directors, the Board appointed Chuck Barger, Charles W. Barger & Son Construction Company, to fill the unexpired term. Chuck served as VTCA president 2008-2009. He currently serves on VTCA’s Vision 2020 committee and the Legislative and Political Action Committee. The Aggregate Producer Leadership Committee recommended Chuck’s appointment.

In resigning, Norden said the difficult decision stemmed from additional responsibilities with his firm. He added “E. Dillon & Company remains committed to supporting the Alliance and the important work being done on behalf of the industry.”
Governor Ralph Northam has announced two appointments to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).

Bertram F. Dodson, President and CEO of Dodson Pest Control, will represent the Lynchburg District.

Carlos M. Brown, Senior Vice President and General Counsel with Dominion Energy, will represent the Richmond District.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board consists of 17 members appointed by the governor. More information about the CTB can be found at http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/.

Dave Covington Appointed I-81 Program Delivery Director

VDOT has announced that Dave Covington, PE has been appointed to the newly created position to oversee the implementation of projects associated with the I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan. This position reports directly to Chief Engineer Bart Thrasher, PE. Covington will be positioned to provide corridor-long strategy and consistency as I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan projects and initiatives are developed and constructed.

Covington has over 20 years of experience in the transportation industry, with diverse, yet vast expertise in design, maintenance and construction. Most recently, he has served as the Staunton District maintenance engineer. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech.

In design and construction, he has managed complex design-bid-build projects and large-scale design-build contracts, both as a consultant to VDOT and as an employee of VDOT. Recently, he led VDOT’s $250 million Route 29 Solutions program in Charlottesville. Throughout the development and delivery of these major infrastructure projects, he utilized sound risk-management principles to ensure that projects were delivered safely, completed ahead of schedule and under budget, and that Virginia residents and taxpayers received good value for their investments. He is committed to employing the same principles in managing implementation of the $2.2 billion package identified to improve the I-81 corridor.

Laura Farmer Named New Chief Financial Officer For VDOT

VDOT Chief Deputy Commissioner Robert H. Cary, P., LS, has announced that Laura Farmer has been named the agency’s new Chief Financial Officer.

Farmer will be responsible for a $6.4 billion annual budget and nearly 150 team members serving VDOT’s financial planning, capital investment, fiscal management and tolling programs. As the agency’s Director of Financial Planning since 2011, she has proved instrumental in establishing Virginia’s Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicles (GARVEE) program, as well as providing for the financial arrangements around the agency’s innovative finance programs and public-private partnership projects, including the Elizabeth River Tunnels projects and I-95 Express Lanes. Prior to joining VDOT, she served as a budget analyst for health and human resources agencies at the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget.

Farmer holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Chowan University and a master’s degree in public policy from the College of William and Mary. She has also completed the Virginia Executive Institute and Commonwealth Management Institute programs and is a graduate of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association Leadership Academy.

Farmer assumed the new role on October 10, 2019 following John Lawson’s appointment as Deputy Secretary of Transportation. She has been filling the role in an acting capacity since April.

Governor Northam Appoints Two CTB Members

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Transportation Construction Management Institute Changes Format

Registration is now available for the 2020 TCMI program, marking over three decades of training Virginia’s transportation industry’s emerging leaders. This year, in response to industry recommendations, the program duration has been changed. VTCA, VDOT and Virginia Tech have collaborated to shorten the length of the program from ten days to six days to help mitigate the impact on employers and employees. The change is expected to make it possible for more up and coming leaders to benefit from the program.

Offered on Virginia Tech’s campus in Blacksburg, TCMI leads participants through a comprehensive developmental program tailored for individuals on a leadership track in the industry. Participants in the program come from private industry construction and engineering companies as well as VDOT staff from across the state. The diversity represented by the participants provides an unprecedented opportunity for participants to gain greater understanding of their ability to solve problems and effectively communicate the solutions.

The 32nd Transportation Construction Management Institute set to train another class of industry and VDOT leaders beginning February 22 and concluding February 28, 2020. Mark your calendar now to attend. Class space is limited. Details and registration for the 2020 program can be found at https://register.cpe.vt.edu/.

Waters Of The United States (WOTUS) Final Rule

On October 22, 2019 The Federal Register published the below summary of action. According to this Final Rule, the 2015 WOTUS Rule will no longer be in effect in the United States. There is always the concern that groups that supported the 2015 Rule could file legal actions opposing this repeal. A Replacement Rule, much like the 2018 WOTUS Replacement Rule, could be issued by the EPA in late 2019 or early 2020. The 2018 Rule garnered wide industry support. The full Federal Register document can be read here.

Definition of “Waters of the United States”—Recodification of Pre-Existing Rules

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers; Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule, effective December 23, 2019.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army (“the agencies”) are publishing a final rule to repeal the 2015 Clean Water Rule: Definition of “Waters of the United States” (“2015 Rule”), which amended portions of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), and to restore the regulatory text that existed prior to the 2015 Rule. The agencies will implement the pre-2015 Rule regulations informed by applicable agency guidance documents and consistent with Supreme Court decisions and longstanding agency practice.

The agencies are repealing the 2015 Rule for four primary reasons. First, the agencies conclude that the 2015 Rule did not implement the legal limits on the scope of the agencies’ authority under the Clean Water Act (CWA) as intended by Congress and reflected in Supreme Court cases, including Justice Kennedy’s articulation of the significant nexus test in Rapanos. Second, the agencies conclude that in promulgating the 2015 Rule the agencies failed to adequately consider and accord due weight to the policy of the Congress in CWA section 101(b) to “recognize, preserve, and protect the primary responsibilities and rights of States to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution” and “to plan the development and use . . . of land and water resources.” 33 U.S.C. 1251(b). Third, the agencies repeal the 2015 Rule to avoid interpretations of the CWA that push the envelope of their constitutional and statutory authority absent a clear statement from Congress authorizing the encroachment of federal jurisdiction over traditional State landuse planning authority. Lastly, the agencies conclude that the 2015 Rule’s distance-based limitations suffered from certain procedural errors and a lack of adequate record support. The agencies find that these reasons, collectively and individually, warrant repealing the 2015 Rule. With this final rule, the regulations defining the scope of federal CWA jurisdiction will be those portions of the CFR as they existed before the amendments promulgated in the 2015 Rule.
**Member News**

*T3 Design* is excited to welcome Erin Donovan, PE as Director of Engineering to lead the firm’s growing transportation engineering practice. Erin will be responsible for guiding the firm’s strategic vision, expanding the network of clients and service offerings, as well as overseeing and developing the project management team. Erin brings a proven track record with over 20 years of experience on a variety of transportation and land development projects serving both the public and private sectors, utilizing a variety of delivery methods including design build and public private partnerships (P3). She holds a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the Catholic University of America and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic and State University. Erin has been recognized as an ENR Mid-Atlantic Region “Top 20 under 40” and serves in leadership positions at many professional organizations such as Transportation Research Board and Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS).

T3 welcomes Erin’s skills and enthusiasm and looks forward to her contributions to our clients, our staff, and our community. She can be reached at edonovan@t3design.us or 571-407-7325.

**Wagman Heavy Civil** received two awards at the 2019 Design-Build Institute of America Mid-Atlantic Region Awards Night. The awards honor projects that demonstrate effective schedule and cost performance and exemplify effective processes, teamwork, problem-solving and excellence in design, in addition to demonstrating advanced and innovated project delivery, including design-build best practices.

In Virginia, the Route 7 Widening and Bridge Rehabilitation project received the 2019 DBIA-MAR Merit Award. This $41 million project for the Virginia Department of Transportation reconstructed and widened the structurally deficient Route 7 bridge over Dulles Toll Road and the Airport Access Highway from four lanes to six lanes and added a 10-foot-wide shared-use path for pedestrians and bikes. The second winning project was the Maryland 404 project, a $105 million design-build project for Maryland State Highway Administration.

**Johnson, Mirmiran and Thompson, Inc.** is pleased to announce that Alan Nash, LS has joined the Richmond Right-of-Way group as a Senior Property Specialist. Nash is a graduate of East Tennessee State University with a B.S. in Engineering Technology. He has 14 years of acquisition and survey project management experience, which includes six years as a consultant with Verizon and eight years of experience with VDOT as a Right-of-Way professional. Along with his negotiation duties he will be managing Right-of-Way projects. Alan can be reached at 804-655-4820 or by email at anash@jmt.com.

**Health Care Corner**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) contained the “Individual Mandate” requiring all Americans to have health insurance coverage or pay a penalty. That mandate was repealed. There is still an open enrollment period for individuals who want to obtain individual health insurance for 2020. The open enrollment period for 2020 starts Friday, November 1 and runs through Sunday, December 15, 2019. Coverage starts January 1, 2020. Please contact me if you have any questions.
2019 VTCA-VDOT Consultant Forum Is A Big Success!

Every year, VDOT leadership, locality representatives, and industry professionals gather in Richmond to celebrate the past year’s successes and gear up for the up-and-coming challenges that we all face in delivering Virginia’s transportation construction program.

This year, we were fortunate to have JJ White help us learn how to identify how others influence us, and how we can use the Dale Carnegie principles to impact others and embrace change. FHWA Virginia Division Administrator, Thomas Nelson, and Director of Research and Innovation, Cathy McGhee, explored the impacts of federal and state initiatives on the program, respectively. Commissioner Stephen Brich, PE, Deputy Chief Commissioner Rob Cary, PE and Chief Engineer Bart Thrasher, PE gave us an in-depth look at the Program. Multiple industry partners presented on Design-Build, technology in the various VDOT programs, e-Construction, and other developing technologies and skillsets that are quickly becoming mainstays in the transportation industry.

We recognized the 2019 VTCA Engineering Award Winners, and the 2019 VTCA James G. Browder, Jr. Memorial Scholarship recipients at the Forum. Eleven teams were recognized for their project submittals, and three scholarships were awarded to the hardworking students who are preparing to enter our industry.

VTCA Engineering Awards

**Overall Winner - AECOM**
Franklin Road Bridge Over NS Railway
("Larger Than $10M – Other” Submittal)
(City of Roanoke)

**Greater than $10M - Other**
Timmons Group, Inc.
Atlee Road Extended
(Hanover County)

**Design-Build**
Winner - STV
Pulse BRT
(City of Richmond)

**Honorable Mentions**
Rinker Design Associates, P.C.
Route 7 Widening and Bridge Rehabilitation over Dulles Toll Road
(Fairfax County)

Dewberry
Route 606 Loudoun County Parkway/Old Ox Road Widening & Reconstruction
(Loudoun County)

**Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP**
I-81 Bridge Replacement over Sinking Creek & Route 808
(Washington County)

**Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.**
Odd Fellows Road Interchange
(City of Lynchburg)
James G. Browder, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Winners

VTCA’s James G. Browder, Jr. Memorial Scholarship is named in honor of Jamie Browder, a former VDOT Chief Engineer, Army Reserve major general, and consultant engineer. In the spirit of the scholarship’s namesake the annual award is made to students who exemplify the highest levels of dedication and commitment to excellence through their scholastic work and community achievements. This scholarship is funded through voluntary contributions of the engineering membership of VTCA. The 2019 Scholarship recipients were announced at the Consultant Forum and we are pleased to introduce them.

Apple B. Loveless of Alexandria is pursuing a Civil and Infrastructure Engineering degree at George Mason University. She is involved in both the Engineers for International Development (EfID) and ASCE. Apple has focused her past work experiences and education in community development and environmental sustainability. Upon graduation from GMU in May 2020, Apple intends to work as an EIT for either a firm or municipality, while exploring new technology and innovative solutions aimed at improving urban transportation networks and mitigating environmental impacts. She is employed by Dewberry.

Ashley V. Sackett of Chesapeake attends UVA where she is pursuing a degree in Civil-Environmental Engineering. Ashley has volunteered her time in the Society of Women Engineers, the Hampton Roads Post of the Society of American Military Engineers, and the UVA Student Chapter of Towards a Better Latin America. She has also volunteered in her local community at the Public Library and the Chesapeake Regional Hospital. Ashley is passionate about studying the environmental impacts of the transportation industry and wants to make a positive influence on mitigating those impacts, while offering a viable transportation system for the traveling public.

Adam F. Smith of Henrico is pursuing a Building Construction degree at Virginia Tech. While attending Tech he has been employed by a construction company. Adam is currently a member of the Sailing Club, and has participated in the rugby, robotics, and volleyball clubs. He has volunteered his time for youngsters with special needs in the game of volleyball and conducted numerous fundraising events for his club teams. Adam has operated skid steers, dozers, excavators, and backhoes, and is looking forward to a career in the transportation industry in construction.

VTCA Would Like To Thank Our Sponsors For Helping Make This Forum A Huge Success!

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HDR Engineering, Inc.
HTNB Corp
Info Tech, Inc.
Jacobs Engineering
Johnson, Mirmiran and Thompson
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Lockwood’s Carpets, Inc. provides tunnel maintenance and repair services to the Virginia Department of Transportation. Commercial flooring, including demolition, sub-floor prep work, concrete grinding, self-leveling and installation for projects of all sizes, is an additional area of expertise. After 45 years in business and two generations of leadership, Lockwood’s Carpets has established a reputation of stability and exceptional client services. DMY is a minority-owned business and is certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (SWaM/ MBE/ DBE/ LDBE).

DMY Engineering Consultants Inc. (DMY) specializes in geotechnical site investigation, geotechnical drilling, geotechnical instrumentation, laboratory testing, construction materials testing/inspection, and design and analysis of various geotechnical features. DMY and has established a reputation as a strong player in delivering right solutions through innovative approaches, quality services, and engineering excellence. DMY is a minority-owned business and is certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (SWaM/ MBE/ DBE/ LDBE).

Welcome To Our New Members

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Command Alkon aligns technology, people, and processes through best-of-breed supply chain technology. Replace manual and complex tasks and processes with efficient, scalable, and reliable solutions. CONNEX is our technology platform that increases collaboration between contractors and project owners and their material suppliers, producers and haulers. It facilitates every step in the workflow from initial orders through to paying the final bill.

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Position Sought – Full Or Part-time

Self-motivated professional seeking position with a quality organization where skills, capabilities and experience can be utilized in the accomplishment of corporate goals. Able to achieve objectives and meet deadlines with a reputation for integrity, tenacity, and effectiveness. Solid track record of building teamwork, producing quality work product, innovative problem solving, revenue generation, and positive customer relations. Background reflects extensive experience in business development, marketing, sales, corporate management, contract administration, project management, conflict resolution, management of procurement for both materials and subcontract work, personnel supervision, contract and claims negotiation, and quality assurance/quality control. BSCE from VA Tech.

For a copy of this resume, contact Kayla Singleton at VTCA, kayla@vtca.org.